

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 10-13 and 16 are amended for clarity.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative, Mr. Paul Tsou, during the April 18, 2006, personal interview. The substance of the personal interview is incorporated in the remarks below.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-10, 13 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Rivera (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0003353) in view of Thomason (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0023625); and claims 11-12 and 14-15 over Thomason in view of Rivera. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

With respect to the "execute one or more processing instructions indicated in the instruction form recited in claims 1, 10-13 and 16, the Office Action quotes the following portions of Rivera: Abstract, paragraph 17, and paragraphs 7-10 and 20. While these cited passages disclose processes performed by the workflow integration system 100, none of these passages disclose that the Digital Form include one or more processing instructions that are executed by the various recited elements. In fact, Rivera did not disclose that the Digital Form include any instructions. Rather, the Digital Form included pointers to data that the workflow integration system 100 compiled so that the most up to date real time information is provided for various processes of an organization. For example, Rivera disclosed:

A Digital Form is originated by a user pursuant to the implementation of a procedure within the organization. **Once the Digital Form is retrieved by the user, it is automatically populated with data stored within a database.** After completing the user supplied new information sections of the Digital Form, the user transmits the Digital Form, and the data input by the user, along with all associated tracking and authentication information, are extracted from the fields in the Digital Form and used to populate a record or data tables in a relational database. The Digital Forms can be self-populating in whole or part, in that the relational database extracts the

relevant data from its records and/or tables and automatically populates the associated fields within the Digital Form to simplify the task for the user. a Digital Form can be processed simultaneously by multiple users to thereby speed the execution of a task and associated documents can bind to the Digital Form to enable the compilation in real time of a complete transaction record that is routed electronically through the workflow process.

The Digital Forms are pre-mapped electronic documents that are automatically routed within the organization's workflow environment and enable the users to populate the Digital Form with data, review the data, approve the data and route the data to the appropriate destination(s). The result of such data entry and management is the creation of the information that is needed by the organization for its operations. (Emphasis added.)

(Rivera, paragraphs 7 and 23.) As disclosed in this quoted portion and agreed during the personal interview, the Digital Form was not disclosed to include one or more processing instructions. Instead, the Digital Forms were pre-mapped electronic documents that were automatically routed within the organization's workflow environment. Thus, Rivera did not disclose or suggest one or more processing instructions as recited in claims 1, 10-13 and 16.

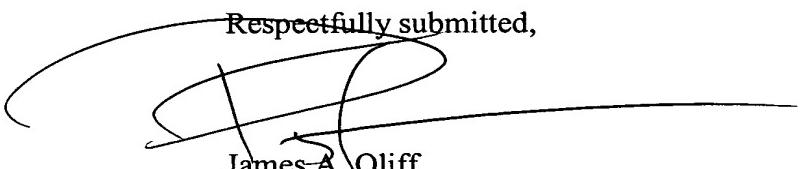
Thomason did not supply the subject matter lacking in Rivera. Thomason merely disclosed the systems and method for completing forms. There was nothing in Thomason disclosing an instruction form that includes one or more processing instructions.

In view of the above, Rivera and Thomason individually or in combination would not have rendered obvious the subject matter recited in claims 1, 10-13 and 16. Claims 2-9 depend from claim 1 and claims 14 and 15 depend from claim 13. Thus, Rivera and Thomason individually or in combination would not have rendered obvious the subject matter recited in claims 1-16. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103 is respectfully solicited.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-16 are earnest solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Paul Tsou
Registration No. 37,956

JAO:PT/gck

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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